

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12588 171448Z

13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 171152Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132
INFO AMEMBSSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSIN SINAI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY
SUBJ: LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

REF CAIRO 12517,

1. ALTHOUGH SADAT SUCCESS IN PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM DOMINATES
FRONT PAGES OF CAIRO DAILES SEPT 17, MEETING WITH LEBANESE
LEADERS NONETHELESS CONTINUE IN EGYPT, ALTHOUGH TONE OF
PRESS TREATMENT SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN ON PREVIOUS
DAYS. SADAT HELD FOUR-HOUR MEETING MEETING AT MIT ABU AL-KOM
WITH FORMER PRIMIN SA'IB SALAM, WHO CAME OUT STRONGLY IN PRESS
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STATEMENT AFTER MEETING FOR RESTORATION OF EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN

SOLIDARITY. EXPRIMIN TAQI AL-DIN AL-SULH TO ARRIVE SEPT 17,
BUT MAJOR FOCUS OF DAILIES ON UPCOMING ISMAILIYYA MEETING
BETWEEN SADAT AND SARKIS SEPT 18.

2. PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL AND PARTY DEPARTED CAIRO FOR
DAMASCUS SEPT 16. IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT, GEMAYEL REITERATED
SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW SHOULD LEBANESE GOVT SO
REQUEST, AND NOTED THAT THERE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AL
PEACE-KEEPING FORCES AND SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON. GEMAYEL
ALSO CAME OUT STRONGLY FOR EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN REAPPROACHMENT
AS SINE QUA NON FOR SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS.

3. EGYPTIAN DAILIES SEPT 17 HAD HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO DIGES
RECENT CABINET CHANGES EFFECTED BY FRANJIYA AND CAME OUT
STRONGLY AGAINST ASSUMPTION BY CHAMOUN OF PRIMIN KARAMI'S
FINANCE, INFO AND DEFENSE PORTFOLIOS AND OF ACTING PRIMIN-
ISTERSHIP. KARAMI DENUNCIATION OF FRANJIYA MOVES COVERED
EXTENSIVELY IN LOCAL DAILIES, WHICH ALSO REPORT DENUNCIATION
OF CHANGES BY MUSLIM CIRCLES IN LEBANON.
PHALANGE INSISTENCE THAT BEMAYEL HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN
ADVANCE ALSO REITERATED IN PRESS COVERAGE.

4. AGAIN SYRIAN EFFORTS ON NEGOTIATING FRONT VIRTUALLY IG-
NORED BY CAIRO DAILIES. ONLY MENTION OF UPCOMING SHUTURA
MEETINGS BETWEEN ARAFAT, SARKIS AND DEP SYRIAN DEFMIN NAJI
JAMIL APPEARS ON BACK PAGES OF CAIRO DAILIES, TACKED ON TO
END OF STORIES ON CAIRO DELIBERATIONS.

5. MENA DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION SEPT 17 TO REMARKS
BY DAMASCUS-BASED GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH ELIAS IV OF
ANTIOCH WHO REPORTEDLY ISSUED STATEMENT THAT LEBANESE
CRISIS NOT IN ESSENCE RELIGIOUS AND THAT ALLEGATIONS TO
CONTRARY MERELY IMPERIALIST MACHINATIONS. PATRIARCH ELIAS
REPORTEDLY PRIASED POPULAR DISTURBANCES ON WEST BANK AND
CALLED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN ARAB
WORLD.

6. COMMENT: MOVE BY FRANJIYA/CHAMOUN AGAINST PRIMIN KARAMI
APPEARS TO HAVE CAUGHT GOE BY SURPRISE AND DIMINISHED
SOMEWHAT PRESS EUPHORIA OVER CAIRO NEGOTIATIONS OF PAST FEW
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DAYS, THOUGH OPTIMISM CONTINUES REIGN AT MFA, WHICH IS BANK-
ING ON SARKIS VISIT TO MOVE PEACE PROCESS ALONG. IN ADDITION,
POTENTIAL RESULTS OF SARKIS/ARFAT/JAMIL MEETINGS NOT YET
CLEAR IN CAIRO. POSSIBLY GOE AWAITING SOME SYRIAN INITIATIVE
AS PARADE OF POENTIAL MEDIATORS (SHI'ITE IMAM MUSA SADR,
GEMAYEL, SALAM) RETURNS TO DAMASCUS TO REPORT THEIR FINDINGS
TO PRES ASAD.
MATTHEWS

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